STATEMENT

Statement on the Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal.

In pursuance of the direction given by the Supreme Court, the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal heard the matter and passed an interim order on 25th June, 1991. The brief details of the order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal are as under:—

(i) The State of Karnataka to release water from its reservoirs so as to ensure that 205 TMC of water is available in Tamil Nadu's Mettur Reservoir in a year from June to May. This will be effective from 1st July, 1991.

(ii) The State of Karnataka shall regulate the releases from their reservoirs during the year to ensure monthly inflow into Mettur reservoir given in the order.

(iii) In respect of each month, the releases are to be made in 4 weeks in four equal instalments.

(iv) 6 TMC of water for Karaikal region of the Union Territory of Pondicherry will be delivered by the State of Tamil Nadu in a regulated manner.

(v) The State of Karnataka shall not increase its area under irrigation by the waters of river Cauvery beyond existing 11.2 lakhs acres.

The above order will remain operative till the final adjudication of the dispute referred to the Tribunal.

A variety of legal and constitutional issues have been raised in the letters received from the Chief Ministers of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. Also Karnataka Government promulgated the Karnataka Cauvery Basin Irrigation Protection Ordinance, 1991 on 25-7-1991. After considering the matter carefully in all its aspects, on the advice of the Government, the President of India has made a reference to the Supreme Court under Clause (1) of Article 143 of the Constitution of India which has been presented to the Registrar General of Supreme Court on 28-7-1991. The questions referred to the Supreme Court for consideration and report thereon are:—

(1) Whether the Ordinance and the provisions thereof are in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution;

(2) (i) Whether the Order of the Tribunal constitutes a report and a decision within the meaning of Section 5(2) of the Act; and

(ii) Whether the Order of the Tribunal is required to be published by the Central Government in order to make it effective; and

(3) Whether a Water Disputes Tribunal constituted under the Act is competent to grant any interim relief to the parties to the dispute.

Passport Pocket in Delhi

1296. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:

SHRI M.V. CHANDRA SHEKARA MURTHY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi Police recently busted a passport racket and arrested several persons;

(b) if so, the details of the persons arrested;

(c) the details of the incriminating documents seized; and

(d) the action the Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS: (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) Yes, Sir. Three criminal cases have been registered in the recent past in this regard and 16 persons arrested.

(b) to (d) (i) Seven persons have been arrested in case FIR No. 85 dated 4-3-1991 u/s 419/420/468/471/472/473 IPC, Police Station Lajpet Nagar (South). The following incriminating documents have been seized:—

83. Indian passports; 30 US citizenship cards; 2 Canadian citizenship cards; 75 New York driving Cards; 10 notes of 100 dollars denomination; one currency note of hundred rupees; 20 seals/dyes of Embassis of USA and Middle-East; 16 negatives of photographs affixed on forged passports; 160 USA green-cards and 30 multiple entry visas of UAE.

(ii) 5 persons have been arrested in case FIR No. 198 dated 5-7-1991 u/s 471/468/420 IPC, Police Station Gokalpuri (North-East). The following incriminating documents have been seized:—

4000 forged passports, driving licences and large quantity of printed documents.

(iii) 4 persons have been arrested in case FIR No. 110 dated 8-3-1991 u/s 420/468/471/120-B IPC, Police Station Mandir Marg, New Delhi. The following incriminating documents have been seized:—

Eight fake passports of Singapore alongwith blank visa/visa-stickers of U.K., West-Germany and Canada.

Damage to Aqueduct of Bhakra Canal

1297. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:

SHRI M.V. CHANDRA SHEKARA MURTHY:

SHRI ASHOK ANAND RAO DESHMUKH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the militants in Punjab have damaged an aqueduct of the main Bhakra Canal with rockets;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether the culprits have since been arrested; and

(d) the action propose to be taken to provide security to Bhakra Canal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS: (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) and (b) According to available information, on 6th July, 1991, some unidentified terrorists fired two rockets on Budhki Nadi Aqueduct situated on Main Bhakra Line. As a result there was a minor leakage of water.

(c) and (d) No arrests have been reported so far. However, the State Government has been told to provide full and adequate security to the Canal.

Price of Steel

1298. SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the price of steel has alarmingly gone up in the retail market during 1991;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government to reduce the steel price?